

McCollum Speaks Out Against Abuse of Girls in Developing World

Washington, D.C. – Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) is featured in an editorial about child marriage and sexual exploitation of women in the July 2008 issue of *Glamour* magazine.

“Girls must never be treated as a commodity to be given to a man,” Congresswoman McCollum told *Glamour* Magazine.

Congresswoman McCollum has defended the rights of women and girls and has been an outspoken voice against sexual abuse since she entered Congress over eight years ago. Next week, as Co-Founder of the Global Health Caucus, she will co-host a briefing to address comprehensive violence prevention approaches. Speakers will also discuss the trauma of rape and other assaults against women.

“Girls deserve the right to enter adulthood and decide for themselves who their husband will be,” McCollum said in *Glamour*.

The editorial, titled, *Help End the Tragedy of Child Marriage*, also urges *Glamour's*

readers to lobby Congress to support the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act (H.R. 3175), introduced by Congresswoman McCollum. The legislation declares child marriage, sometimes described as a "harmful traditional practice," to be a human rights abuse and makes the elimination of child marriage a national goal.

Editor's Note: PDF of *Glamour* magazine article attached. To view online, go to http://www.glamour.com/news/articles/2008/06/child_marriage

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4) serves on the House Appropriations Committee and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee